

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated April 28, 2005. Claims 10-11 have been canceled. New claims 12-15 have been added. Thus, claims 8-9 and 12-15 are now pending.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Grandia. This Section 102(b) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 8 as amended requires a “method of manufacturing a silicon wafer, the method comprising the following steps in the order recited: polishing side faces of a silicon block used for manufacturing the silicon wafer; and slicing the silicon block, so that said slicing is performed after said polishing.” Thus, claim 8 clearly requires that the slicing is performed “after” the polishing. The cited art fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 8.

Grandia discloses a method of making silicon wafers. However, in Grandia, silicon blocks are (1) subjected to grinding, then (2) sliced into wafers, and thereafter (3) polished in this order (e.g., col. 2, lines 46-64). In other words, the slicing in Grandia is performed *before* the polishing. This methodology of Grandia is problematic for the reasons discussed in the background section of the instant application.

Amended claim 8 makes clear that the slicing of the block is performed *after* the polishing. Grandia fails to disclose or suggest this feature. In fact, Grandia teaches directly away from the invention of amended claim 8 because Grandia only performs slicing *before* polishing of individual wafers – the opposite of what claim 8 requires.

Claims 12 and 14 also require that the slicing be performed *after* polishing. Again, Grandia fails to disclose or suggest this feature; and instead teach the opposite thereby teaching directly away from the inventions of claims 12 and 14.

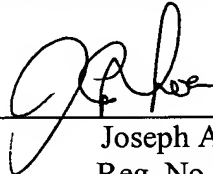
KAJIMOTO et al.
Appl. No. 10/716,661
July 21, 2005

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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